

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1873

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AMEMBASSY BONN

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USNMR SHAPE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0610

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: DECEMBER 9 WESTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

AT THE 122ND PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS ON DEC 9, CHAIRED BY UK REP (BOLLAND), BELGIAN REP (SMOLDEREN) DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. HIS PRESENTATION FOCUSED ON THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE NEGOTIATIONS AND STRESSED THE NEED FOR A REDUCTION APPROACH THAT TOOK INTO ACCOUNT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS, INCLUDING NEW ONES STEMMING FROM IMPLEMENTATION OF AN AGREEMENT. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE BELGIAN STATEMENT, THE FULL TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS COMPLEX.
2. A REDUCTION APPROACH MUST GIVE THIS COMPLEXITY DUE REGARD, TAKE ALL RELEVANT FACTORS INTO ACCOUNT, AND PROVIDE A REALISTIC BASIS FOR ATTAINING AGREED GOALS.

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3. THE WESTERN APPROACH MEETS THESE REQUIREMENTS.

4. THE COMPLEXITY OF THE SUBJECT MATTER DERIVES NOT ONLY FROM THE LARGE NUMBER OF FACTORS INVOLVED, BUT ALSO FROM THE FACT THAT SOME FACTORS ARE VARIABLE AND OTHER ARE IMMUTABLE.

5. THUS, ALL FACTORS CANNOT BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY.

6. NEW FACTORS WILL ARISE AS A RESULT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS - SOMETHING WHICH THE WESTERN APPROACH, UNLIKE THE EASTERN ONE, TAKES INTO ACCOUNT.

7. AFTER AN AGREEMENT, PARTIES WILL HAVE RESTRICTED THEIR FREEDOM TO AUGMENT THEIR ARMED FORCES AS THEY SEE FIT.

8. AS IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL TO SEEK PARITY IN EVERY SPHERE, THE WESTERN APPROACH ONLY ENVISAGES A COMMON CEILING ON CERTAIN FORCE ELEMENTS.

9. WESTERN EMPHASIS ON THE ASYMMETRY IN THE CURRENT COMPOSITION OF FORCES ON EITHER SIDE CONCERNS OBJECTIVE FACTS, NOT SUBJECTIVE JUDGMENTS AS REGARDS THE INTENTIONS OF THE OTHER SIDE.

10. THE REDUCTION OF DISPARITIES WOULD INCREASE STABILITY TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL PARTICIPANTS' SECURITY.

11. EASTERN CLAIMS THAT THE PRESENT FORCE RELATIONSHIP MUST BE MAINTAINED BECAUSE IT HAS KEPT THE PEACE IN EUROPE FOR THE LAST THIRTY YEARS IGNORES THE FACT THAT THAT RELATIONSHIP HAS CHANGED CONTINUALLY AND CONSIDERABLY OVER THE YEARS.

12. THE WEST CANNOT CURTAIL ITS FREEDOM TO MAKE GOOD EXISTING DISPARITIES IN THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT TO APPROXIMATE PARITY IN GROUND FORCES.

13. WESTERN PROPOSALS CALL FOR COLLECTIVE CEILINGS IN KEEPING WITH THE REALITIES OF THE PRESENT AND POSSIBLE FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF WESTERN DEFENSE.

14. AS EASTERN REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD COME TO RECOGNIZE, THE WESTERN PROPOSALS TAKE ALL OF THESE COMPLEXITIES INTO ACCOUNT  
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IN A MANNER WHICH PROVIDES FOR A REASONABLE AND PRACTICAL OVERALL SOLUTION. RESOR

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